

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

At least in the second membrane electrode assembly, the polymer electrolyte membrane should have a Q value (charge per a unit area) of 0.09-0.18 C/cm<sup>2</sup>. When the Q value is less than 0.09 C/cm<sup>2</sup>, it is impossible to obtain sufficient power-generating performance. On the other hand, when it exceeds 0.18 C/cm<sup>2</sup>, the polymer electrolyte membrane has too low heat resistance, resulting in too high percent defective. The particularly preferable Q value of the polymer electrolyte membrane is 0.14-0.18 C/cm<sup>2</sup>. Here, the Q value is the amount of electric charge per a unit area determined from a peak area of proton on an adsorption side in the scanning of voltage from -0.1 V to +0.7 V, in a cell in which the amount of platinum in the catalytic layer of each electrode is 0.5 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>, and in which a polymer electrolyte membrane in the membrane electrode assembly electrode assembly is surrounded by an aqueous sulfuric acid solution of pH 1 on one side and a nitrogen gas on the other side. The Q value may be regarded as an indicator of adhesion of the electrode to the polymer electrolyte membrane, and it has been found that with the polymer electrolyte membrane having the Q value of 0.09-0.18 C/cm<sup>2</sup>, an excellent polymer electrolyte membrane electrode assembly is obtained.